

Urban District Council of Eastleigh and Bishopstoke.

Reports of the Medical Officer of Health and the Inspector of Nuisances for the Year 1909.

OFFICES OF THE COUNCIL, EASTLEIGH,
February, 1910.

ANNUAL REPORT OF MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

In making my report, I have taken into consideration the whole of the year 1909, as I was in close touch with the work for the six months previous to my election.

I might casually mention that Eastleigh is built on a flat, low-lying area, supplied by two streams. The sub-soil is of gravel, with an upper stratum of clay, and the sub-soil water is on an average about 12 feet from the surface. The stratum of clay impedes the percolation of the rainfall, thereby increasing the humidity of the surrounding atmosphere, which greatly influences the incidence of certain diseases, having a marked effect on tuberculosis and rheumatism. Between the natural sub-division of the district is a considerable area of marshy ground.

The chief occupation of the inhabitants is in connection with the Railway Works, which is carried on in workshops in every way satisfactory from a hygienic standpoint.

During the latter months of the year there has been a considerable increase in the population, due to the starting of the new Railway Locomotive Works.

I have estimated the population at 12,000 and based my statistics on that figure. The birth rate is 21·9, which again shows a decrease, the actual number of births being 263, against 274 for last year. The death rate, I am pleased to say, is lower than last year, being 8·4 against 9·1. The death rate for infants under one year is 87·4 per 1000 births. This is a great increase over the previous year, but at the same time is less than the average for the last ten years. The zymotic death rate is 1 per 1000.

Sixty-two cases of infectious diseases have been notified during the past year, of which 22 were of diphtheria, 26 of scarlet fever, 11 of erysipelas, and 3 of enteric fever. There were four fatal cases of diphtheria. In every case Antitoxin was employed, except in one of the fatal cases, where the child died before the medical attendant was able to arrive. I think there is no doubt that the use of Diphtheritic Antitoxin is of inestimable value in these cases. The scarlet fever cases were in many instances of a more severe type than I have seen here before, but none were fatal. There were four fatal cases due to measles, which I think a very small number considering the severe outbreak that occurred during the summer months. This outbreak was greatly accentuated by a considerable laxity and confusion in relation to the attendance at School of children who had had measles and those who had been exposed to such infection.

I would recommend that in a working class town like Eastleigh it would be better if no children were allowed to attend School from infected houses. I would also like to suggest that some emphasis should be laid on this point, as owing to supposed harmlessness of measles medical opinion is often not sought, and a total disregard of precautions to prevent the spread of the disease results.

There were four deaths from whooping cough. Three deaths were due to cancer; while eleven were due to Pulmonary Phthisis.

Pulmonary Phthisis is only notifiable when it occurs in paupers, three cases having been notified last year. In the event of death or removal, the rooms occupied by the patient are disinfected, but we have no system of organised treatment, which is greatly to be regretted, as the nature of the soil already explained is very conducive to the development of Tuberculosis, and I regret to say that there are a very large number of cases in the district.

I take this opportunity of again pointing out the necessity of an Isolation Hospital, and beg to call your attention to the number of infectious diseases notified, which is increasing yearly, and also to mention many contact cases that have occurred in Diphtheria and Scarlet Fever due to the imperfect isolation at home.

The Schools, which have been regularly inspected, are in good sanitary condition. During the past year the Bishopstoke Schools were closed on account of measles. The Scholars are inspected by the County Medical Officer.

The general house accommodation in Eastleigh is good, and there is plenty of open space between the rows of houses. The roads are wide in the new part under construction.

There have been a few cases of overcrowding, due to the sudden influx of men for the New Works, and new houses are being rapidly constructed to accommodate the increase.

The scavenging of the District is well done. The refuse is collected by cart weekly, and taken to a refuse tip at the Sewage Works well away from the town. The collection would be greatly facilitated if all the older houses were compelled to provide sanitary ashbins, as in many instances I have noticed the refuse is kept in boxes, old tin baths, and similar articles close to house, and are even deposited on the ground. In addition I should like to call the attention of the Council to the necessity of providing at an early date, a new tip, or better still, a destructor.

The condition of the sewers is good. During the past year great attention has been given to repairing leaks, which were very numerous.

The house drains are on the whole excellent, but many in the older parts of the town have been found defective and badly laid.

The whole of the modern part of the town is on the water carriage system. A few of the outlying parts are managed on the privy-midden system, or the pail system.

There are now very few cesspools in use. The sewerage is disposed of by land treatment, the effluent being discharged into tidal waters.

The water supply is good and pure, and is from the South Hants Water Company. A very few people in the outlying districts draw their supply from wells.

The milk supplied to the town is mostly from Dairies outside this district. Those within the district, as well as the milk shops, are frequently inspected, and are kept in a sanitary state.

There are seven slaughter houses in the district, which are, on the whole, kept clean and satisfactory. One case of general tuberculosis in a slaughtered bullock was brought to my notice by the butcher and destroyed. The slaughter houses are frequently inspected at irregular intervals.

The bakehouses are kept in good condition, only three being found in need of cleansing during the year. There are no underground bakehouses.

Systematic inspections under the Factory and Workshops Act have been carried out, and six minor breaches of regulations have been remedied, the sanitary accommodation in every case being satisfactory.

The Bye-Laws in use are on the Local Government Board model, and have lately been revised.

With regard to surface drainage, owing to the great increase of property at the Southern end of the town, an extension of the surface drainage scheme has become necessary, and a scheme has been approved of for an additional sewer to discharge in Monk's Brook, and will be proceeded with as soon as the necessary sanction is obtained.

I append the Local Government Board tables and the report of the Sanitary Inspector.

I take this opportunity of highly commending the Sanitary Inspector, Mr. Whieldon, for the very able way in which he has carried out his duties, and thanking him heartily for his invaluable assistance.

I am, Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

R. Reynolds Garrett

Medical Officer of Health.

February, 1910.

ANNUAL REPORT OF INSPECTOR OF NUISANCES.

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

I beg to submit my annual report for the year 1909.

I have reported to you and notified for abatement the following nuisances :—

36 from blocked drains.

5 from deposits of manure, &c.

9 from defective water closets.

2 from animals so kept as to be a nuisance.

2 from overcrowding.

5 from houses being without a proper water supply.

3 from slaughter houses being in such a state as to require walls, &c.,
limewashing and cleansing.

3 from bakehouses requiring limewashing.

4 from dairies requiring cleansing, &c.

1 from floor of cowshed requiring proper drainage.

I am pleased to report that these nuisances were promptly abated on notification.

Factory and Workshop Act.

At irregular periods the workshops have been visited. Notices to limewash three bakehouses and two workshops were served. The workshops were found generally to be kept in a cleanly condition. There are sixty-four on the register, and six outworkers.

Dairies and Cowsheds.

Five persons have been registered as dairymen and purveyors of milk and one as a cowkeeper during the year. There are now 22 persons registered under the Act, 18 as dairymen and purveyors of milk and 4 as cowkeepers. I have made inspections of the premises occupied by these persons and found it necessary to serve five notices for abatement of nuisances. The dairies, milkshops, and cowsheds are well drained and generally kept in a satisfactory state.

Slaughterhouses.

There are seven licensed slaughter houses in the district, one having been built during the year. With the exception of not removing offal according to regulations I have had little to complain of in respect to these premises during the year. The carcasses of two bullocks and a small quantity of fish were destroyed as unfit for food.

Infectious Diseases.

I have fumigated 56 houses, bedding, &c., for infectious cases, and supplied the necessary disinfectants.

Water Supply.

Four samples of water obtained from wells supplying houses in the district have been examined and found to be satisfactory. Five houses have been without water for short periods owing to the water having been cut off by the South Hants Water Company for non-payment of rate.

Petroleum Acts.

There are six persons registered to keep petroleum and two to keep carbide of calcium.

When visiting the premises I have found them kept in accordance with the regulations.

I am pleased to report that during my inspections I have met with general assistance from the owners and occupiers.

I am, Gentlemen, Yours obediently,



— Inspector of Nuisances.

